This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing an electronic program guide, the method comprising:

receiving programming information from a source;

storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in a data storage area;

responsive to storing the received programming information in its entirety, partitioning ~~a~~the data storage area into a plurality of discrete storage areas; and

distributing stored programming information to each discrete storage area based on a predefined criterion.

~~receiving programming information from a source; and~~

~~storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in the discrete storage areas, each discrete storage area storing programming information that is related in accordance with a predefined criterion.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the programming information comprises information about individual programs.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the programming information further comprises tokens, including compressed forms of the information about individual programs, used to describe the individual programs and a meaning associated with the tokens.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predefined criterion comprises a temporal relationship between the individual programs in the received program information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predefined criterion comprises a numeric relationship between token numbers associated with the tokens.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a size of each data storage area is selected to store program information about programs to be broadcast over a defined time interval.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising referencing the information stored in each discrete storage area using a storage area identifier to identify the information within a storage area and an index of storage area identifiers.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the storage area identifiers form a pointer chain.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein each discrete storage area which stores programming information no longer required is referenced by an empty identifier indicating that said discrete storage area is available for storing new information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising periodically determining if the programming information stored in each discrete storage area is relevant; and

marking those storage areas containing programming information that is no longer relevant with the empty identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining if the programming information stored in each discrete storage area is relevant comprises checking if the programming information is current or not.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining that specific programming information is required; and requesting said specific programming information from the source.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein determining that specific programming information is required comprises checking if a user has input a request for specific programming information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein determining that specific programming information is required comprises checking whether the programming information stored in the discrete storage areas is incomplete for want of specific programming information.

15-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media storing instructions that ~~A system for implementing an electronic guide, the system comprising a processor coupled to a memory having stored thereon a sequence of~~

~~instructions which~~ when executed by ~~the~~ a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, comprising:

receiving programming information from a source;

storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in a data storage area;

responsive to storing the received programming information in its entirety, partitioning the data storage area into a plurality of discrete storage areas; and

distributing stored programming information to each discrete storage area based on a predefined criterion.

~~partitioning a data storage area into a plurality of discrete storage area;~~

~~receiving programming information from a source; and~~

~~storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in the discrete storage areas, each discrete storage area storing programming information that is related in accordance with a predefined criterion.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~one or more computer readable media of claim 29, wherein the programming information comprises information about individual programs.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 30, wherein the programming information further comprises tokens, including compressed forms of the information about individual programs, used to describe the individual program and a meaning associated with the tokens.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 30, wherein the predefined criterion comprises a temporal relationship between the individual programs in the received program information.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 31, wherein the predefined criterion comprises a numeric relationship between token numbers associated with the tokens.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 29, wherein a size of each data storage area is selected to store program information about programs to be broadcast over a defined time interval.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises referencing the information stored in each discrete storage area using a storage area identifier to identify the information within a storage area and an index of storage area identifiers.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 35, wherein the storage area identifiers form a pointer chain.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 35, wherein each discrete storage area which stores programming information no longer required is referenced by an empty identifier indicating that said discrete storage area is available for storing new information.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 37, wherein the method further comprises periodically determining if the programming information stored in each discrete storage area is relevant; and marking those storage areas containing programming information that is no longer relevant with the empty identifier.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 38, determining if the programming information stored in each discrete storage identifier is relevant comprises checking if the programming information is current or not.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises determining that specific programming information is required and requesting said specific programming information from the source.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 40, wherein determining the specific programming information is required comprises checking if a user has input a request for specific programming information.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ one or more computer readable media of claim 40, wherein determining that specific programming information is required comprises checking whether the programming information stored in the discrete storage area is incomplete for want of specific programming information.

43-56. (Cancelled)

57. (New) A method for implementing an electronic program guide, the method comprising:

receiving programming information from a source;

storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in a data storage area;

cyclically scanning the stored programming information to identify missing programming information based at least one predefined criterion;

transmitting a request to the source for the missing programming information, the request including information identifying the missing programming information; and

receiving the missing programming information from the source.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the step of receiving programming information from the source further includes receiving tokens used to describe individual programs and a meaning associated with the tokens.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the step of receiving tokens further includes receiving a token dictionary in which the tokens and the associated meaning are stored.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the token dictionary can be modified.

61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the at least one predefined criterion includes a temporal relationship between individual programs in the received programming information.

62. (New) One or more computer-readable media storing instructions that, when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform a method, comprising:

receiving programming information from a source;

storing the received programming information, in its entirety, in a data storage area;

cyclically scanning the stored programming information to identify missing programming information based at least one predefined criterion;

transmitting a request to the source for the missing programming information, the request including information identifying the missing programming information; and

receiving the missing programming information from the source.

63. (New) The one or more computer readable media of claim 62, wherein the step of receiving programming information from the source further includes receiving tokens used to describe individual programs and a meaning associated with the tokens.

64. (New) The one or more computer readable media of claim 63, wherein the step of receiving tokens further includes receiving a token dictionary in which the tokens and the associated meaning are stored.

65. (New) The one or more computer readable media of claim 64, wherein the token dictionary can be modified.

66. (New) The one or more computer readable media of claim 62, wherein the at least one predefined criterion includes a temporal relationship between individual programs in the received programming information.

67. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the meaning associated with the tokens is stored in a token dictionary.

68. (New) The method of claim 67, wherein the token dictionary is modifiable.